

**Three Sonnets by Sri Aurobindo:**

**Settings for Soprano and Orchestra**

**Diane Thome**

PROGRAM NOTE

Three Sonnets by Sri Aurobindo:  
Settings for Soprano and Orchestra  
By Diane Thame

For several years prior to composing THREE SONNETS I was deeply immersed in the study of Sri Aurobindo's epic poem SAVITRI, a study which continues. SILVER DEER, my 1980 violin and piano composition was inspired by a brief excerpt from that vast text. Having musically opened the door with this small chamber piece I then wished to embark upon a larger and truly explicit integration of poetry and music. From a collection of Sri Aurobindo's Sonnets written over a period of many years I extracted three which embraced the subjects of nature, death, love, divine descent and transformation. The order in which I arranged these sonnets provided an over-all formal design and suggested certain contrasts of instrumentation, texture, linearity and temporal characterization between the movements. I chose to use an expanded tonal language which at certain times becomes distinctly modal, as when a quotation from the SEDERUNT of the great medieval composer Perotin, is disclosed near the end of the third movement. This repeated rhyme quotation begins with the words:

"Nearer and nearer now the music draws,  
Life shudders with a strange felicity;"

My primary aim throughout was to capture and evoke in the music some of the meaning and beauty which these sonnets possess for me. The music, in fact, became a way of resonating these meanings.

The work was begun in July 1983 and completed, after several interruptions, in January 1984. It is dedicated to Madhav Pandit.



MUS

ORCHESTRA

Flute  
Oboe  
Clarinet in Bb  
Bassoon  
Horn in F: I, II  
Trumpet in C: I, II  
Trombone I (Tenor)  
Trombone II (Bass)  
Percussion (One player): Triangle, Glockenspiel,  
Vibraphone, Xylophone,  
Low Tympani (C→G)

Harp  
Celesta }  
Piano }  
Violin  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass

Score in "C" except for Bass which sounds 8 bassa; and Glockenspiel,  
Xylophone, Celesta which sound 8 va.

85146230

Rose, I have loved thy beauty, as I love  
The dress that thou hast worn, the transient grass,  
O'er which thy happy careless footsteps move.  
The yet-thrilled waysides that have watched thee pass.  
Soul, I have loved thy sweetness as men love  
The necessary air they crave to breathe,  
The sunlight lavished from the skies above,  
And firmness of the earth their steps beneath.  
But were that beauty all, my love might cease  
Like love of weaker spirits; were't thy charm  
And grace of soul, mine might with age decrease  
Or find in Death a silence and a term,  
But rooted to the unnameable in thee  
Shall triumph and transcend eternity.

#### TRANSIIT, NON PERIIT

(My grandfather, Rajnarayan Bose, died September 1899)

Not in annihilation lost, nor given  
To darkness art thou fled from us and light,  
O strong and sentient spirit; no mere heaven  
Of ancient joys, no silence eremite  
Received thee; but the omnipresent Thought  
Of which thou wast a part and earthly hour,  
Took back its gift. Into that splendor caught  
Thou hast not lost thy special brightness. Power  
Remains with thee and the old genial force  
Unseen for blinding light, not darkly lurks:  
As when a sacred river in its course  
Dives into ocean, there its strength abides  
Not less because with vastness wed and works  
Unnoticed in the grandeur of the tides.

#### KRISHNA

At last I find a meaning of soul's birth  
Into this universe terrible and sweet,  
I who have felt the hungry heart of earth  
Aspiring beyond heaven to Krishna's feet.

I have seen the beauty of immortal eyes,  
And heard the passion of the Lover's flute,  
And known a deathless ecstasy's surprise  
And sorrow in my heart for ever mute.

Nearer and nearer now the music draws,  
Life shudders with a strange felicity;  
All Nature is a wide enamoured pause  
Hoping her lord to touch, to clasp, to be.

For this one moment lived the ages past;  
The world now throbs fulfilled in me at last.

PLEASE DO NOT MARK  
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MARKING MAY RESULT IN  
CHARGES FOR DAMAGES  
OR REPLACEMENT

I  
No Meter - *Poco Meno Mosso*  
*p=53*

*♩=66*

Sop. *8va*  
Vln.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Bs.  
Timp.

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*3* *3* *3* *5*

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Rose. I have loved thy beau-ty, as I love

Sop.  
Vln.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Bs.  
Timp.

*3* *3* *3* *3*

the dress that thou hast worn, the tran-sient grass, o'er-which thy hap-py

*Poco accel.* *A Tempo* *poco rit.*

Sop.  
Vln.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Bs.  
Timp.

*5* *3* *3*

care-less foot-steps move the yet thrilled way-sides that have watched thee

7  
4

A

Ob. *mp*

Trpt.

Hp. *E♭ F# G# B♭ C# D#*  
*mf* *pp* *mf* *p cresc.* *f*

Pf. *pp* *loca* *pp* *p dolce*

Sop. *pass.*

Vln. *legatissimo mp* *pp* *pp* *pizz*

Vla. *legatissimo mp* *pp* *pp*

Vlc. *legatissimo mp* *pp* *pp*

Bs. *pp* *pp*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Trpt. *con sord. (straight)* *non vib.*

Hp. *sim.* *dim.* *mp* [65]

Pf. *mp*

Vln. *esp.*

Vla. *esp.* *p arco*

Vlc.

**B** Poco Più Mosso  
♩ = 66

Fl. *legatis.* *mf* *p* *f* *fi. trg.* *mf* *legato*

Ob. *legatis.* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *legato*

Cl. *legatis.* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *legato*

Bsn. *legatis.* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *legato*

Trpt. *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *legato*

Hn. *f* *marcato*

Bs. Trb. *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Pf. *ff*

Sop. *mf* *Saul, I have loved thy*

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Bs. *mf*

(a)

*mf*

Fl. *mf* *legato*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. *mf*

Trpt. *mp*

Hn. *mp* *poco cresc.* *f*

Bs. Trb. *poco cresc.* *f*

Timp. *poco cresc.* *f*

Sop. *ppp* *5=d* *3=d* *3=d* *5=d* *3=d*  
 sweet-ness as men love love the ne-cessary air they crave to breathe,

Vcl.

Bs. *poco cresc.* *f*

*poco cresc.* *f*

Fl.

Trpt. *f* *7=d*

Hp. *f* *7=d* *4v.*

Sop. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*  
 the sun - light la - vished (leggiero) *poco cresc.* *pp* *pp* *poco cresc.* *leggiero* *pp* *poco cresc.* *3* *3* *3* *3*  
 sing qua if feasible the

Vln.

Vla. *pp* *poco cresc.*

C

Fl. Ob. Cl. Bsn. Hp. Sop. Vln. Vla.

sun - light la - vished cresc. ff

ANIMATED

Fl. Ob. Cl. Bsn. Hp. Sop. Vln. Vla.

mp poco sf f from the skies a - bove, and firm - ness

♩ = 58

Fl.   
 Cl.   
 Hp.   
 Sop.   
 Vln.   
 Vla.

of the earth their steps be-neath.

*marcato*

*delicately*   
 *mp*   
 But

Fl.   
 Cl.   
 Hp.   
 Sop.

were that beau-ty all, my love might cease like love of

*pp*   
 *ppp*   
 *smile*

Fl.   
 Cl.   
 Hp.   
 Sop.

weak-er spi - rits; were it thy

Fl. *mf* 3 *cresc.*

Cl.

Hp. *poco cresc.* *mf* L.V.

Sop. charm and grace of soul,

Vln. *legiero* *mp* 6 6 6 6 5

Vla. *legiero* *mp* 6 6 6 6

Vlc. *mp* 6 6 6 6

Fl. **E**

Cl.

Hp. F# G# Ab Bb cb

Sop. mine might with age de-crease

Vln. *molto* *mp*

Vla. 12 6 7

Vlc. 6 6 7



Trb.

Timp.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

death *legatis.* a si - lence and a term, *mf* but

Trb.

Timp.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

root - ed to the un - name-a-ble in these shall

*dim.* *sub ff.* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf*

5  
4

Trb.

Pf.

Timp.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

triumph

triumph

shall tri-

G ♩ = 58

Ft.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hp.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

legatis.

triumph.

tran - scend

e - ter - ni





Poco Più Mosso  
♩ = 63

Sop. *7*

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *pp*

Bs. *pp*

3

4

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

con sord.

pp

mp senza sord.

pp

mp

mp

3

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

ppp

ppp

poco

poco

3

3

3





Fl. *legatis.*

Ob. *simplice p<sub>5</sub> legatis.*

Cl. *legatis.*

Bsn. *legatis.*

Trpt. I *mf simplice*

Glock *pp L.V.*

Vib. *pp*

Hp. *ppp*

Sop *simplice*  
*No mere hea ven of*

Vln. *spi rit; 3*

Vla. *ppp (pizz) 3*

Vlc. *ppp (pizz) 3*

Bs. *ppp (pizz) 3*  
*pp*



Fl. Glack. Vib. Pf. Hp. Sop. Vln. Vla. Vlc. Bs.

ancient joys, no si-lent e-re-mite re-ceived thee;

pp L.V. tr mf L.V.

5 3 5 3

Glock. Vib. Pf. Hp. Sop. Vln. Vla. Vlc. Bs.

leggero pp arco mp (pizz) mp

the om-ni-pre-sent

G# → G4, A4 → A# D4 → D#

L.V. C

3 5 3 5



Meno Mosso, poco agitato  
♩ = 58

Fl.

Ba. Trb.

Vib.

Vln.

Vlc.

Bs.

Fl.

Trpt. 1

Bs. Trb.

Vib.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

**E** ♩ = 66

*insistent*

*fl. key*

*can cond.*

*pp*

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*pp* *poco cresc.* *poco dim.*

*mf*

*f* *mf*

*f* *mf*

*In - to that splen - dor caught thou*







H

Fl. *mf* 5

Cl. *mf* 3

Bsn. *mp* 3

Hn. 1 *mp* 3

Trpt. 1 *mp* 3

Trb. 1 *mp* 3

Temp. *mp* *pp*

Hp. *pp* 3 5

Cel. *pp* 3 5

Sop. *f* not less be-cause with vast-ness wed *legato* and works

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *mp* *spic.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Bs. *mp* *spic.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3









III

$\text{♩} = 66$

$\text{♩} = 112$

Bsn. Sop. Bs.

At last I find a meaning of soul's birth

*poco dim.* *meno f* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

Fl. Ob. Cl. Bsn. Vln. Vla. Vlc. Bs.

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p cresc.* *mf* *p cresc.* *mf*

4  
4

Bsn. Glock. Pf. Sop. Vln. Vla. Vlc. Bs.

In - to this u - ni - verse ter - ri -

*pizz.* *mp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

8 bassa (if possible) - - - - -

Fl. *legatis.*

Cl. *pp legatis.*

Bsn.

Glock. *sfz*

Hp. *pp*  
*Eb F# G# Ab*  
*Bb C# Db*

Pf. *sfz* *L.V.*

Sop. *bie 3 and 3 sweet,*

Bass *(8 basses) - - - - - loco*

6  
4

Fl. *mf legato*

Cl. *mf legato*

Glock. *mf legato*

Hp. *mf legato* *L.V.*

Sop. *mf legato*

I who have felt the hun - gry heart of earth As -

5  
4

Fl. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Cl. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Glock.

Hp. *ff* *3*

Sop. *3* *3*

- pir - ing be - yond hea - ven, be - yond

Fl. *3* *3*

Cl. *3* *3*

Trpt.

Hp. *mp* *mf* *Gb A4* *8va* *loca* *15va*

Pf. *pp* *pp* *dolce*

Sop. *mp* *Simplice*

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs. *pp* *pp* *8 bass (if poss.)*

hea - ven to Krish - na's feet

con sord  
(str.) non vib.

Trpt. I

Hp. *p cresc.* *f* *dim.* *8va*

Pf. *mf*

Vln. *pp pizz* *ped.* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *p espress.*

Vla. *pp* *arco* *p espress.*

Vlc. *pp*

Fl. *leggiere* *pp* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

Cl. *pp* *leggiere* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

Hp. *pp* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

Trpt. I *ff sub.* *sfz* *sfz*

Vln. *ff* *sfz* *sfz*

Vlc. *ff* *sfz* *sfz*

Poco Rit. **B** A tempo

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Tymp.

Hp. *pp* *mp* *Ab*

Pf. *f* *dim.* *A tempo*

Sop. *Poco Rit.* **B** *f* I have seen the beau - ty of im - mor - tal

Vln. *f* *dim.* *mp*

Vla. *f* *dim.* *mp*

Vlc. *f* *dim.* *mp*

Bs. *f* *dim.* *mp*

Tymp.

Hp.

Sop. *5. d* eyes, And heard the pas - sion of the lo - ver's

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.

Fl. *legato*  
*mp legato*

Ob. *mp legato*

Cl. *mp legato*

Bsn. *mp legato*

Hp. *pp legato*

Pf. *ff* *3*

Sop. *mp, legatis.*

flute, *And* known a death - less ec - sta - sy's sur -

*legatis.*  
*pp*  
*pp legatis.*  
*ppp legatis.*

*G# D#*

3

4

Fl. *3*

Cl. *3*

Hp. *3*

Sop. *And* prise sor - row in my heart

5  
4

Fl. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Cl. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Vib.

Pf. *pp* *acc.* *Perz.*

Sop. for - ev - er

Vln. mute.

4  
4  
4

Pf. *mp* *con sord.* *cresc.* *mp* *pluck string*

Vln.

Pf. *8va* *loco m.o.* *pluck strings* *3* *pluck* *mp* *loco m.o.* *5=1*

Vln. *sul tasto* *ppp* *3* *pp* *3* *3*

4  
4

*Poco Rit.*

Pf. *pluck* *mp* *loco m.o.* *ppp* *8va*

Vln. *p dolce* *8va*

4  
4



Glock. *ppp* (L.V.)

Tri.

Sop. *mp* with *pizzicato*

Near-er and near-er now the mu-sic draws, Life shud-ders with a strange fe-li-ci-ty;

Vln. *con sord.* *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *con sord-pizz* *pp*

Glock.

Tri.

Sop.

All na-ture is a wide e-nam-oured pause Ho-ping her Lord to touch, to clasp, to be.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

9  
8





Allarg. - - - -

Fl. **F** *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.*

Ob. *f* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.*

Cl. *f* *p.* *#p.* *p.* *p.*

Bsn. *f* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.*

Hrs. *f* *p.* *p.* *p.* *p.*

Trpts. *f* *p.* *p.* *#p.* *p.*

Trbs. *f* *p.* *p.* *#p.* *p.*

Timp.

Pf. **Allarg. - - - -** **F**

Sop. -filled in me at last.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Bs.



Fl. *pp molto legato*

Ob. *pp molto legato*

Cl. *molto legato*

Bsn. *con sord pp molto legato*

Trpt. *pp molto legato*

Poco Rit. 1-58

Hr. *mf*

Hp. *pp leggiero*

Pf. *mf dim mp*

Sop. *mp Ah...*

Vln. *p*

Vla. *pp leggiero e legato*

Vlc. *pp*

Sop. *loco*

Vln. *5*

Vlc. *5*

Hp.  
Sop.  
Vla.  
Vlc.

4  
4  
4

Hp.  
Sop.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Bs.

*Poco Più Mosso*  
♩ = 63

*mf*  
*pp* L.V.  
*molto cresc.*  
*pp* senza sord.  
*pp* senza sord.

3  
4

Fl.  
Cl.  
Hn.  
Hp.  
Vn.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Bs.

*con sord.*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*8va*  
*poco*  
*poco*

completed JAN 25, 1929  
Seattle, WASHINGTON